

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Shalanda H. Baker, of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.

## VOTE ON BAKER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Baker nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Ex.]

## YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wicker
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

## NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Young

## NOT VOTING—1

Merkley

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

## 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "GASPEE" RAID

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this week marks the 250th anniversary of the first blow struck in the American Colonies' struggle for independence from the British Crown. I come to the Senate floor every year to commemorate this moment because it took place in Rhode Island at the hands of some brave and bold Rhode Islanders.

Before recounting the tale of those bold Rhode Islanders, I would like to

acknowledge a special guest with us in the Gallery today: Michael Tatham, Deputy Head of Mission for the British Embassy here in Washington. A lot has happened over the last 250 years, and Great Britain is now America's closest ally and great, great friend. It is an honor to have the Deputy Ambassador here today.

So it was 1772, and the Royal Navy's revenue cutter, the HMS *Gaspee*, patrolled Narragansett Bay in the wake of the Seven Years War, where Great Britain had emerged the victor. The Crown owed, by some estimates, between 74 and 133 million pounds. That was a colossal burden on the empire's finances. The *Gaspee*'s mission was to collect taxes from the Colonies to help repay British debt.

I will concede that part of the *Gaspee*'s mission was righteous. Rhode Island's rum distilleries formed a corner of the so-called triangle trade, with enslaved people from Africa and sugar from the Caribbean forming the other legs of this foul business. Rum-running to support the slave trade was repugnant and a worthy target of British authorities.

But Britain's heavy hand reached far beyond that. British customs agents seized Colonial vessels and cargo at whim, leaving rightful owners with no recourse to reclaim their property. One such owner was John Hancock, whose signature would soon become famous. Authorities even pressed Colonial sailors into service on His Majesty's vessels against their will.

The *Gaspee* and her captain, Lieutenant William Dudingston, drew particular ire. One of Dudingston's first acts was to stop the merchant ship *Fortune*. Dudingston and his crew roughed up the *Fortune*'s commander, Rufus Greene, condemned the ship and her cargo, and sent the *Fortune* to Boston for the admiralty to sell.

This did not please the *Fortune*'s owner, Rhode Island's Nathanael Greene, who would go on to become General Washington's aide-de-camp and wartime administrator and then command the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War, which he did so effectively that British General Cornwallis would write:

That damned Greene is more dangerous than Washington.

Dudingston's reputation only worsened from there. British law awarded revenue cutter commanders a share of the cargo they seized. Dudingston seized so much cargo that he was able to nearly double his salary, and he earned, along with that bounty, a well-deserved reputation for arrogance. Soon Rhode Islanders were protesting his conduct formally, but those protests yielded no accommodation.

On June 9, 1772, simmering anger at Dudingston and the *Gaspee* boiled over. Dudingston spotted a small trading ship, the *Hannah*, bound for Providence. The *Gaspee* gave chase, and Dudingston hailed the *Hannah*'s captain, Benjamin Lindsey, and ordered

the *Hannah* to submit to a search. Captain Lindsey declined that invitation and ignored the *Gaspee*'s warning shots and sailed on toward Providence.

Now, the *Hannah* was smaller and lighter than the *Gaspee*, and Captain Lindsey was more familiar than Dudingston with the waters between Newport and Providence. Lindsey steered his *Hannah* across the shallow waters outside Namquid Point. The *Hannah* could sail over the shallows, but the heavier *Gaspee* could not. Dudingston and his crew ran aground on a sandbar off Pawtuxet Cove, stranded, as the Sun was setting in a falling tide. The *Gaspee* would need to wait for the next day's high tides to lift it free.

When the *Hannah* arrived in Providence, Captain Lindsey summoned local patriots to Sabin's Tavern for refreshments and for planning. The result of the plan was that under the leadership of John Brown, later to be famous for Brown University, and Abraham Whipple, a group of men boarded a half dozen longboats to row from Providence down to Pawtuxet. Through the dark night, with oars muffled, the Rhode Islanders descended on the *Gaspee*. Whipple reputedly called out to Dudingston—and I hope the young pages will forgive my language, but this is apparently the language used in that moment:

I am the sheriff of the county of Kent, God damn you. I have got a warrant to apprehend you, God damn you; so surrender, God damn you.

I believe I mentioned that the Rhode Islanders had fortified themselves at Sabin's Tavern, which might explain some of the language. In any event, Lieutenant Dudingston refused that invitation so a brief, sharp battle ensued.

At this moment those 250 years ago, Rhode Islanders drew the first blood of what would become our revolutionary struggle when a musket ball struck Lieutenant Dudingston. The Rhode Island patriots boarded the *Gaspee*. In the melee, Dudingston cried out:

Lord, have mercy upon me—I am done for.

But he was not. The British sailors soon gave up the fight. The Rhode Islanders took the crew prisoner and ferried the captives to shore. A marker still stands at the place where the captive crew was brought ashore. And there, Dudingston received the care of a doctor and, ultimately, recovered from his wounds. Indeed, Dudingston would not only heal, but go on to live a long life. He commanded other vessels. He moved back to his native Scotland and married and raised four children in a coastal town called Elie overlooking the Firth of Fife and the North Sea, but he never patrolled Narragansett Bay again.

A quick side story. A few years ago, a couple from Scotland, Angela and Roddy Innes, visited Pawtuxet during Gaspee Days, our annual celebration of the *Gaspee* raid, coming up this weekend. The Inneses are connected through

marriage to the Dudingstons, and Angela wanted to see what the Dudingston-Gaspee was all about.

In Pawtuxet, Rhode Islanders welcomed Angela and Roddy with open arms. Local historian Dr. John Concannon invited them to stay. "It was an amazing experience," Angela said. "The people there are incredibly friendly." The trip also helped them grasp the significance of the Gaspee raid on America's road to revolution. And this year, Angela Innes will mark the 250th Gaspee anniversary with a Gaspee Day party of her own in Scotland.

Well, that left the dreaded Gaspee. With the prisoners ashore, the Gaspee raiders returned to the stranded ship and set her afire. When the fire reached her powder magazine, she blew apart, and her remains were lost to time and tides. Rhode Island was rid of the dreaded Gaspee.

New efforts are underway now to find the charred remains of the Gaspee using advanced sonar technology. Dr. Kathy Abbass of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project is on the case. Dr. Abbass is accomplished in her field. Indeed, she may have located Captain Cook's ship, the *Endeavor*, sunk in Newport Harbor. If anyone can find the Gaspee or what is left of her, it is Dr. Abbass.

I should offer special thanks to Peter Abbott, the British Consul General in Boston who, along with representatives of the Royal Navy, came to Rhode Island last month for the announcement that funds had been raised to find the Gaspee. Abbott said:

Being a British consul in New England means you must have broad shoulders. I get invited to events that celebrate the Boston Massacre and Evacuation Day. But what takes the biscuit is commemorating the burning of a British ship!

The Deputy Ambassador should know that if, in fact, we do find the Gaspee, Rhode Island, a colony no more, intends to courteously seize the vessel for further research.

The Gaspee raid represents Rhode Island's spirit of independence, which has lived in us since Rhode Island's founding as a refuge of religious tolerance from the Massachusetts Colony's harsh theocracy. Our celebration of the Gaspee Affair represents Rhode Islanders' pride in that spirit, which we share willingly, even with a Dudingston descendant.

Oh, and by the way, this episode where Rhode Islanders rode down through the night to a British ship that had been stranded by Rhode Island wilds and sacked her and took her crew and set her afire and blew her up, that all took place more than a year before Massachusetts colonists boarded a British ship to push tea bales into Boston Harbor. They pushed tea bales off the ship; more than a year earlier, Rhode Islanders blew the ship up. I am just saying, Mr. President.

So here is to another 250 years of celebrating the Gaspee raiders and to

more people learning about Rhode Island's role as a spark of revolution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL GUY C. SWAN III

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator INHOFE, as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the co-chairs of the Senate Army Caucus, it is our honor to pay tribute to a great leader and exceptional advocate for the U.S. Army, LTG Guy C. Swan III, U.S. Army, Retired, as he retires from his current position as vice president of the Association of the United States Army, AUSA. For the past 10 years, Lieutenant General Swan led education and professional development for AUSA. Lieutenant General Swan exemplifies a lifetime of commitment and service to the Nation and to others.

A 1976 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lieutenant General Swan was commissioned as a second lieutenant to be an armor officer. Throughout his distinguished career, he was frequently recognized for his exemplary leadership skills, holding command assignments at every level and in many theaters. His career culminated as the commanding general, U.S. Army North/Fifth Army. Along the way, he served in critical staff assignments such as chief of staff and director of operations in Multi-National Forces-Iraq and in high visibility roles including commanding general, Military District of Washington. Placing mission and Nation first, he excelled in every endeavor.

Between assignments leading soldiers, Lieutenant General Swan demonstrated his longstanding commitment to continuous learning. He earned master's degrees in military art and science from the U.S. Army's School of Advanced Military Studies and in national security studies from Georgetown University. Seamlessly stitching his knowledge gained in academia with his military experience,

Lieutenant General Swan made considerable contributions as a thought leader in national security throughout his career. He served as a national security fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Aspen Institute Homeland Security Group, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency—FEMA—National Advisory Council.

Following his retirement in December of 2011 from the U.S. Army, Lieutenant General Swan continued to serve in support of soldiers, their families, Army civilians, and veterans as vice president for education at AUSA. Through his committed leadership, vision, and always positive outlook, Lieutenant General Swan responded to ever-changing interests and needs of the Army by expanding and improving AUSA's support for professional development and education. His work also heightened public interest in the appropriate role of the Army in defense of our Nation. His priority programs to achieve these goals included creating AUSA's world-class "ARMY" magazine, building a family readiness program that reaches out to Army families worldwide, refocusing AUSA-sponsored writing contests to build critical thinking and research skills in the Army, expanding the AUSA book program to include discussions with authors having expert knowledge on the Army and the Nation's security challenges, and establishing an AUSA fellowship program to provide professional development opportunities for mid-level Army officers. In developing and supporting these diverse efforts, he ensured AUSA made the Army, across all of its components, a more professional and capable organization.

He also continued to give back to his alma mater, West Point, serving as a Presidentially appointed member of its Board of Visitors. In this capacity, he contributed to the development of the next generation of academy graduates entrusted with the privilege of leading American soldiers.

Lieutenant General Swan has served the Nation he loves with great distinction and has been an exemplary leader for the servicemembers, families, and civilians of the Armed Forces. His steady leadership, positive outlook, and professionalism have been a sustaining source of strength for those he has led, coached, mentored, and taught through four decades of service.

On behalf of the Senate and the United States of America, we thank Lieutenant General Swan, his wife Melanie, and their entire family for their commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to our Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him a long and joyful retirement. Well done.